

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 DPW-01

AID-20 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 040002

R 280520 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9263

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5064

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT MR IV AT X PLUS SIXTY

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT SAIGON FROM CAN THO 27 MAR 73
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CAN THO 0090

E. O. 11652, GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MR IV AT X PLUS SIXTY.

AFTER ALMOST SIXTY DAYS OF FORMAL CEASEFIRE IN THE MEKONG DELTA,
NOTHING HAS CHANGED. THE DELTA IS THE RICHEST AND MOST POPULOUS
REGION OF SOUTH VIETNAM, COVETED BY BOTH SIDES AS KEY
TO THE FUTURE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY, AND BOTH SOUTH VIET-
NAMESE PATIES REMAIN AS COMMITTED AS EVER TO MAKING WAR
FOR IT. THE SITUATION HERE DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS HAS
NOT DIFFERED MARKEDLY FROM THAT OF ANY PERIOD OF SIMILAR
LENGTH OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, EXCEPT THAT AMERICAN CON-
TROL OVER EVENTS HAS PERCEPTIBLY DIMINISHED. THE PEACE-
KEEPING MACHINERY, DEPENDENT FOR ITS FUNCTIONING ON THE
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COOPERATION OF THE BELLIGERENTS, HAS ENJOYED ONLY THE MOST MARGINAL SUCCESS, A CONDITION WHICH SHOULD WORSEN AS TIME PROGRESSES. THESE THINGS BEING TRUE, THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF THE DELTA WILL BE DECIDED BY FACTORS NOW IN PLAY. THE GVN ENJOYS A LARGE MEASURE OF POPULAR SUPPORT, VASTLY SUPERIOR NUMBERS OF TROOPS, AND A REASONABLY STRONG ECONOMY. THE OTHER SIDE, FOR ITS PART, BOASTS DEDICATED AND DETERMINED CADRE, A WEAKENED BUT STILL POWERFUL POLITICAL/ MILITARY ORGANIZATION, WELL- DEFENDED BASE AREAS, AND STRONG ALLIES. THE IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS ARE FOR BOTH SIDES TO CONTINUE TO USE THESE ASSETS AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, PERPETUATING THE VIOLENT STALEMATE.

WISNER UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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DANANG
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NHA TRANG
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